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# Allen - Scott Report

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Missile Debate Secrecy

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WASHINGTON—Defense Secretary McNamara's vehement denial of Sen. Goldwater's jolting challenge of the reliability of U.S. ballistic missiles is taking a strange turn.

The Pentagon boss is refusing to submit to Senate investigators evidence supporting his contention on the ground it is "too sensitive" for them to see.

In other words, McNamara is taking the position that the Senate armed services preparedness subcommittee, which is endeavoring to get at the bottom of this crucial controversy and has the legal authority to do so, can't be trusted with what he claims is highly classified information.

This remarkable backstage stand is in direct contradiction to President Johnson's offer to provide Republican presidential candidates with intelligence and foreign policy briefings involving secret data.

Under the law, the preparedness subcommittee, which the President himself once headed, is entitled to the classified information it is seeking. But there is nothing on the statute books empowering the President to give such data to the GOP presidential aspirants in the contemplated briefings. He is doing that wholly on his own authority.

There are other ironic twists to McNamara's attempted blackout of the preparedness subcommittee, headed by Sen. John Stennis, D-Miss.

One is that two of its leading members are Republican presidential candidates — Sen. Barry Goldwater, whose bristling charges precipitated the missile furor, and Sen. Margaret Chase Smith, Me.

Another irony is that McNamara intermediaries have been trying to persuade Mrs. Smith to act as peacekeeper between him and Goldwater.

As disclosed in this column, David McGiffert, assistant to McNamara (for legislative affairs), made such a pitch to Mrs. Smith in behalf of his boss.

Obtaining an appointment without indicating its purpose, McGiffert fervently besought her

help on resolving the stormy wrangle between Goldwater and McNamara. McGiffert argued that the controversy was "getting out of hand," and was not in the best interest of national security because "highly sensitive information" is involved.

Mrs. Smith said she would take the matter "under advisement."

## SECRET BOMBSHELLS

Behind McNamara's backstage defiance of the preparedness subcommittee are a series of reports on missiles that he apparently is extremely anxious to withhold from senatorial scrutiny.

These studies, made by both military experts and private contractors, deal with the reliability of this country's principal ballistic missiles — the Atlas, Titan, Minuteman, and Polaris. They also involve the crucial question of the effect a Soviet 60-megaton superbomb would have on the reliability of these missiles positioned 200 to 500 miles of the center of explosion.

This is a key issue that played a leading role in last year's Senate battle over confirmation of the nuclear test ban treaty with Russia.

Sen. Stennis, chairman, has sought unavailingly to obtain these tightly-secreted reports of information about them.

McNamara's adamant blackout is viewed by committee members as definitely related to his rapidly burgeoning vice presidential ambitions. It is the private belief of these senators that McNamara fears that if these studies get into the hands of the subcommittee they might torpedo his evident burning desire to be President Johnson's running mate.

Certainly Sen. Goldwater could be expected to make the most of these reports — if they are as critical as is increasingly suspected.

James Kendall, committee counsel, wants to crack down on McNamara.

In a blunt-worded memorandum to Senator Stennis, Kendall asserts that the committee might just as well shut down if McNamara is allowed to get away with his refusal to produce the desired missile information. Kendall stresses that the committee is the authorized watchdog of the Defense Department, and that McNamara is thwarting that legal function.

Kendall also points out that McNamara's defiance extends beyond the missile controversy.

The high-handed Pentagon chief also is refusing to supply the Senate investigators with information on "cost comparison studies made by the Defense Department of government and private shipyards." The probers want this data as part of their inquiry of McNamara's plans to shut down a number of government shipyards on both coasts.

A majority of the preparedness subcommittee favors taking the explosive backstage controversy direct to President Johnson.

Sen. Stennis is proposing that another effort be made to persuade McNamara to back down. Stennis has offered to undertake this. If he fails, a showdown on

the demand that the matter be put squarely up to the President is certain.

## THE ENGLE TRAGEDY

Sen. Clair Engle, D-Calif., entered the hospital under an assumed name a week before it was announced he had gone there for a check-up. His return to the hospital was for new surgery, but the neurosurgeon refused to operate unless it was

This stand forced the disclosure that he was in the hospital and several days later that he had undergone more surgery.

After the operation, the neurosurgeon strongly insisted that Engle withdraw from the campaign for a second term.

Paul Greene, who has acted as Engle's press man for the past several months, is returning to the Senate Anti-Trust Investigating Committee, headed by Sen.

Philip Hart, D-Mich. This committee became noted under the late Sen. Estes Kefauver, D-Tenn., and Green was hired by him. When Green shifted to Engle, he did not reveal he was on leave from the Anti-Trust Committee; instead, claiming he took the job — at much higher pay — because of complete confidence in Engle's ability to stay in the race.

## FLASHES

Robert McKinney, publisher of the Santa Fe New Mexican, will be named treasury undersecretary to succeed Henry Fowler, who resigned last month to re-enter private law practice. McKinney's ambition is to become

secretary of the treasury in place of incumbent C. Douglas Dillon. . . Sen. Kenneth Keating, R-N.Y., is assuring constituents that the Senate internal security subcommittee is making a thorough investigation of the handling of the case of Col. Michael Goleniewski, Polish secret police defector, by the State Department and Central Intelligence Agency. In a letter, Keating wrote, "As a member of the internal security subcommittee, I am very much aware of this situation and have been following it for several years. . . . The subcommittee has been in touch with Col. Goleniewski for some months and I can assure you his statements will be thoroughly and conscientiously investigated in every detail no matter who is implicated."